

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

10. (Twice Amended) A polynucleotide encoding the C-terminal 14 amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 2 having the amino acid sequence of Ser Asn Pro Pro Val Glu Lys Leu Leu Pro Leu Ser Leu Lys, or its complementary strand.

Please amend claim 32 as follows:

14 32. (Amended) The protein of claim 2, wherein said protein comprises the C-terminal 14 amino acids of ~~Ser Asn Pro Pro Val Glu Lys Leu Leu Pro Leu Ser Leu Lys~~ <sup>SEQ ID NO: 9</sup>.

Please add the following new claim:

18 36. The protein of claim 2 comprising the amino acid sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 2 to 4.

REMARKS

Preliminary

The Examiner has withdrawn restriction of the claims based on the sequence of GenBank accession number AB011969. The Examiner has concluded that Groups I, II, and IV, containing pending claims (2, 9, 18, 19, 20, 24-26), (3-7, 10), and (11), respectively, comprise the same or corresponding technical feature. The Examiner has determined that new claims 32, 34, and 35 are restricted into Group I and new claim 33 is restricted into Group III. New claim 36 has been added and is directed to element (c) of previous claim 2. Claims 2-7, 9-11, 18, 19, 20, 24-26, 32, and 34-36 are therefore pending.